

Cholera infantum

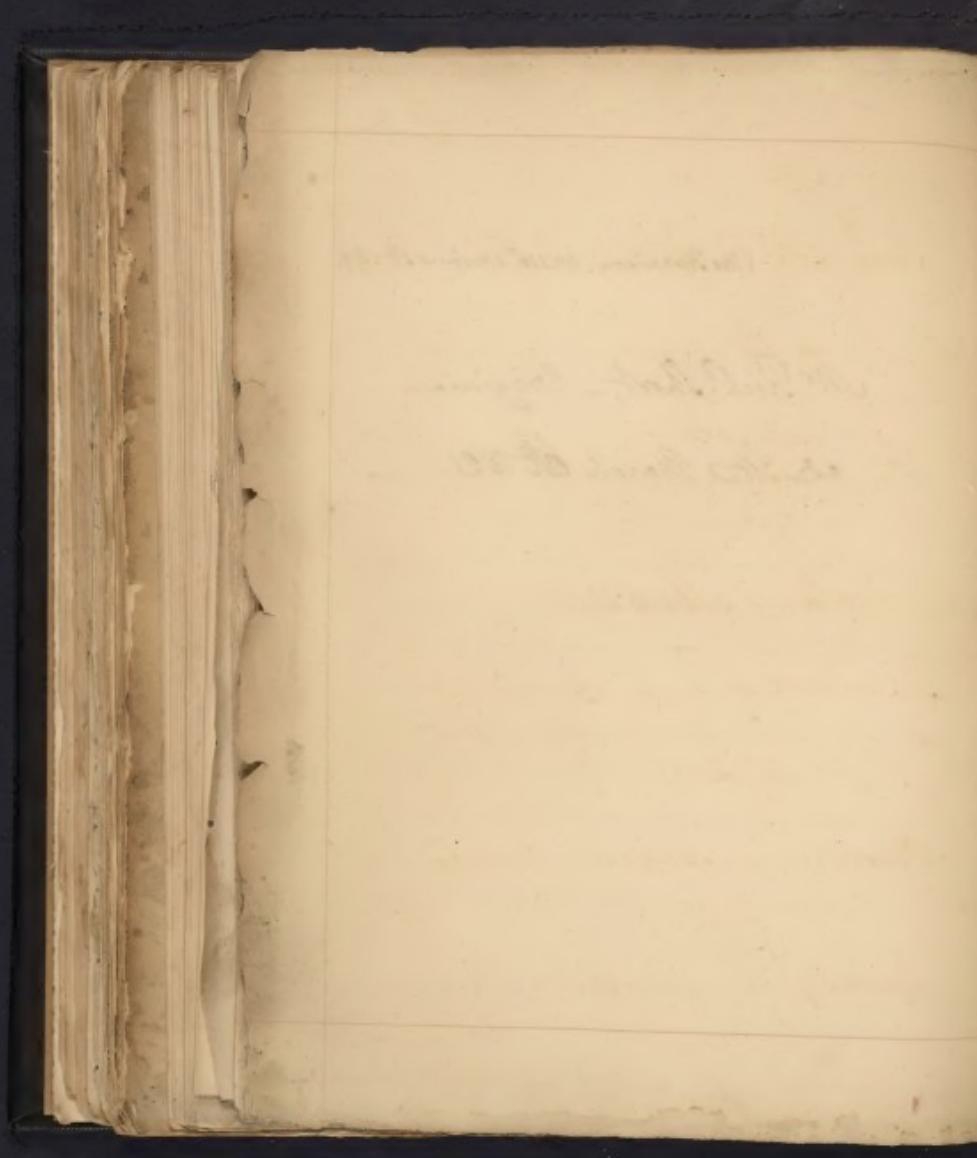
Sept. 23d.

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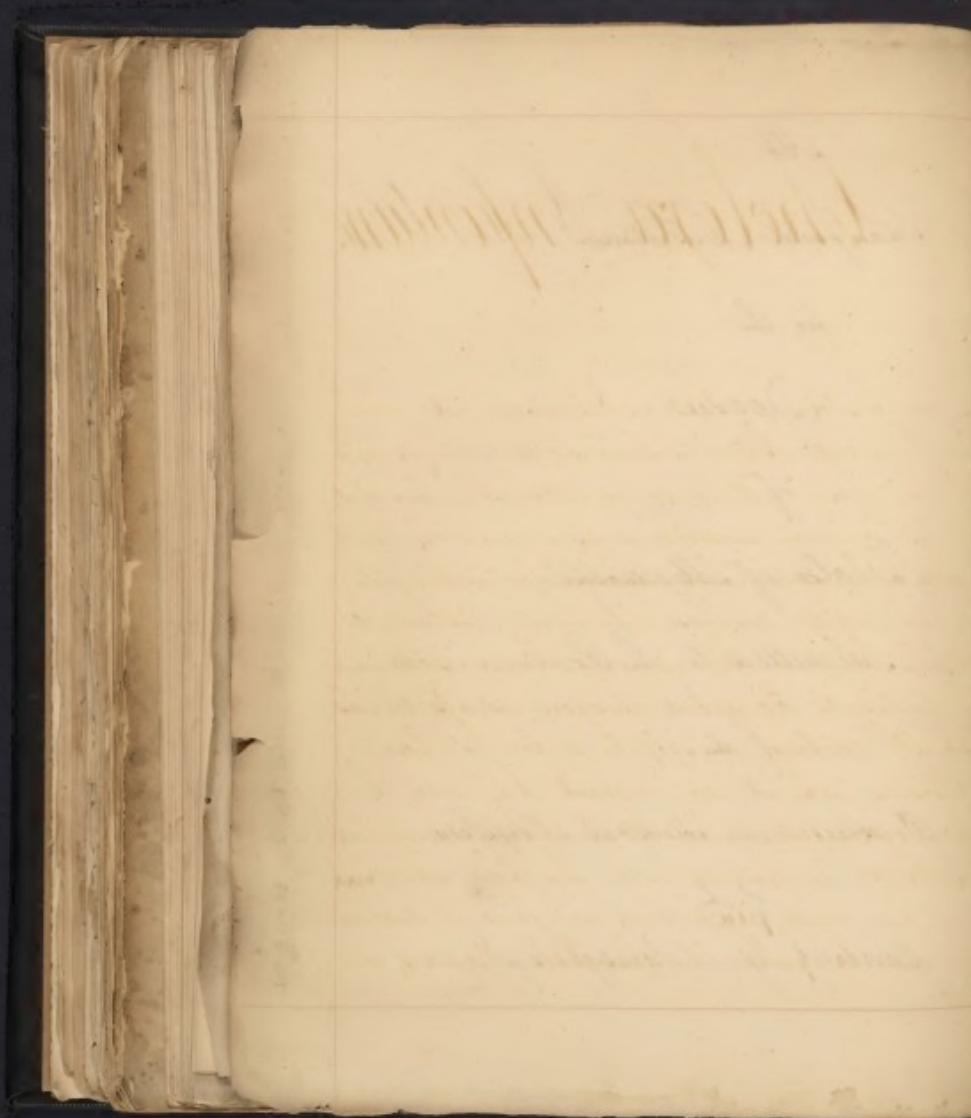
Mrs. Harrison No. 216 Walnut St. 89.

Mr. Rich? Short - Virginia -

admitted March 6th 1821.

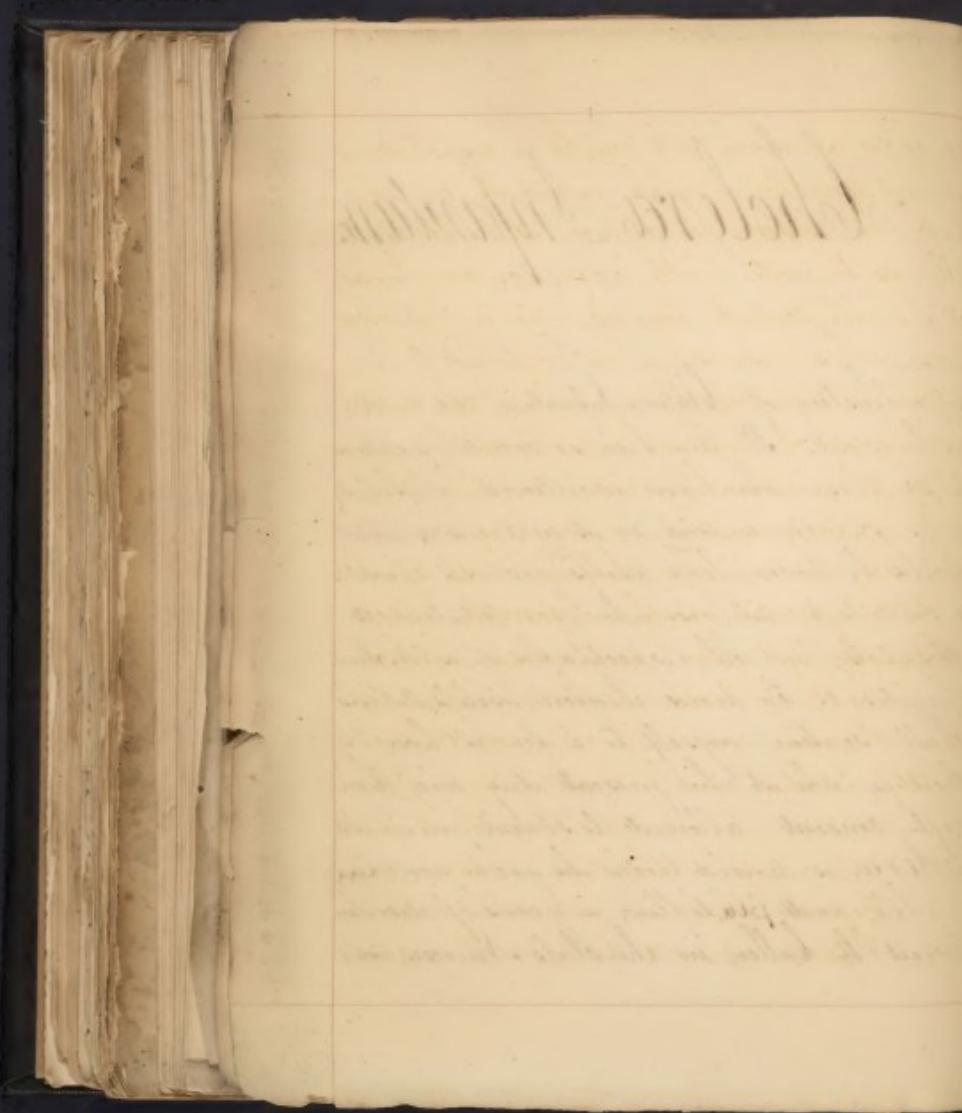


An
Inaugural Dissertation
for the
Degree
of
Doctor of Medicine
Submitted to the Examination
of the
Trustees and Medical Professors
of the
University of Pennsylvania.



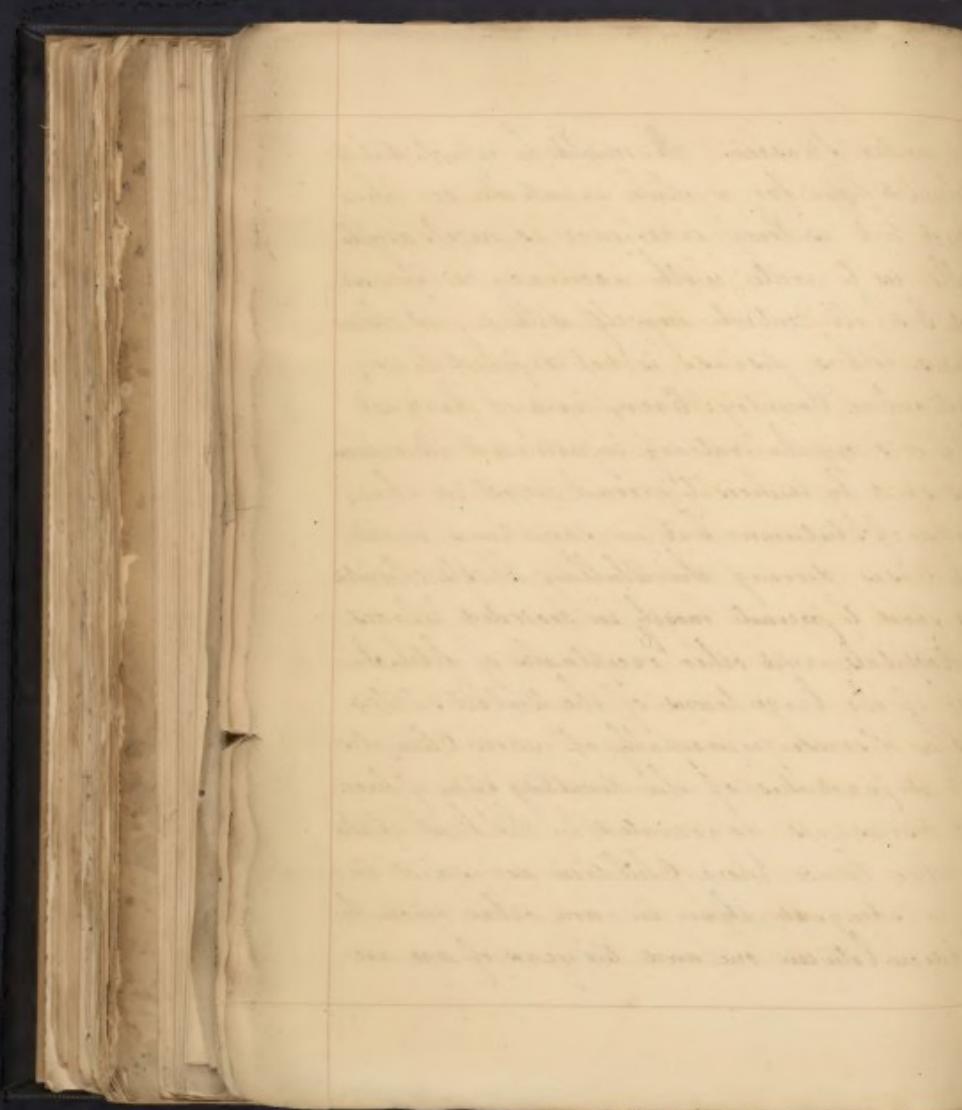
Cholera Infantum.

Of the history of Cholera Infantum, not much need be said: It has been so correctly pointed out by those who have written on the subject, and is so very uniform, in its appearance, that it would be more than would be no to quote the different authors who have illustrated its character, in the respective Countries in which they practise. To avoid therefore useless details I shall confine myself to a few of those Authorities, who at the present day are, by general consent, allowed to stand preeminent. Cholera is derived from the greek word *χολή*, and *πνεύμων*, a genus of disease arranged by Cullen, in the class *Neurosis*, and

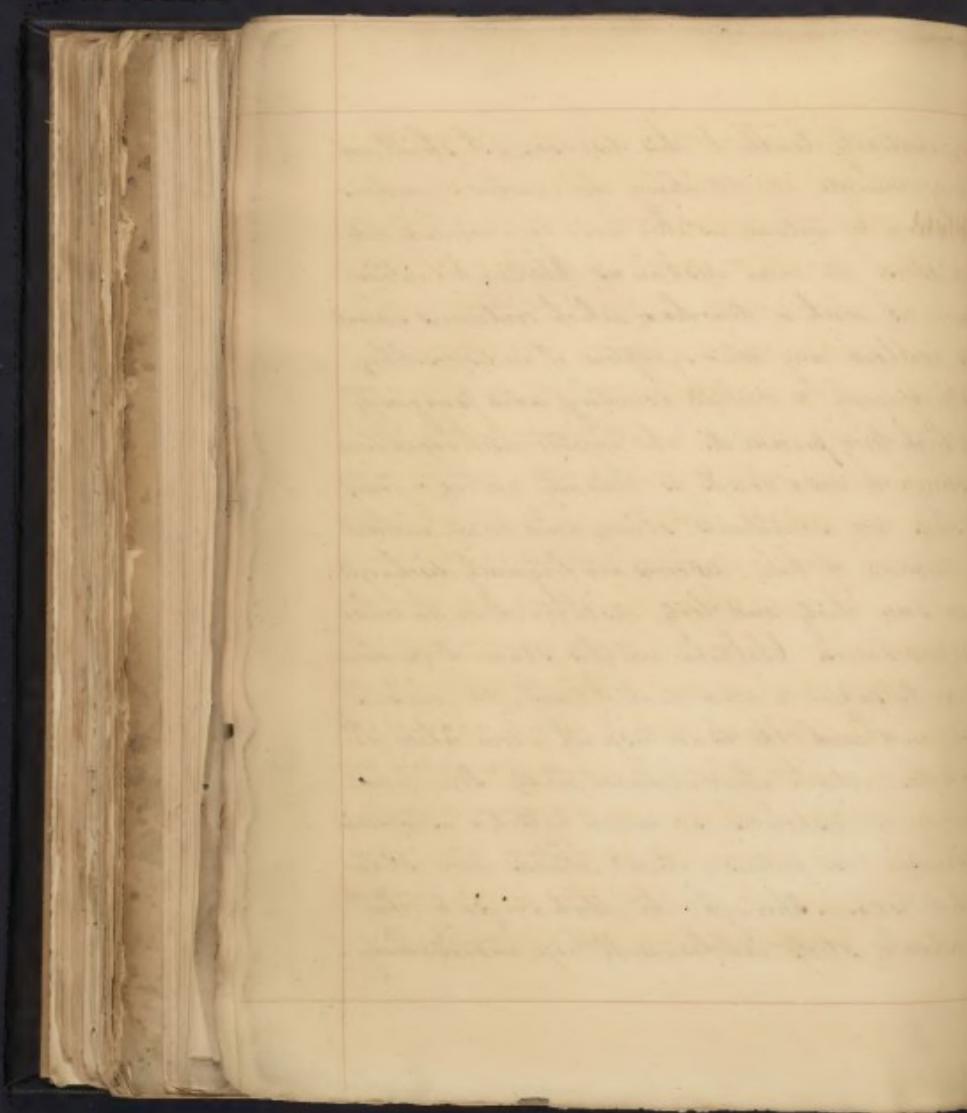


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in't order Spasmo. It might be expected that
I should here for a while expatiate on the
subject but as long experience is necessary to
enable us to write with accuracy on any sub-
ject, I shall content myself with a few obser-
vations. This disease is not confined to any
particular Country: Every part of the West
Globe has on the contrary experienced its ravage.
It is said by authors to prevail most in the
months of Autumn: but we sometimes meet
with cases during the chilling blasts of winter.
It is said to prevail mostly in crowded places
as Hospitals, and other receptacles of filth. In
most of the large towns of the United States.
It is a disease principally of warm climates,
and it partakes of the remitting type of fever.
This disease is aggravated by the heat of the
weather, hence more Children are said to
die in August than in any other month.
Children between one and two years of age, are



are peculiarly liable to this disease. I shall not be very minute in detailing the various symptoms of Cholera Infantum, as they have been pointed out by authors. In most instances Cholera Infantum commences with a diarrhoea, which continues several days without any other symptom of indisposition, but frequently a violent vomiting, and purging, and high fever precede it. The matter discharged from the stomach and bowels is generally yellow, or gray, the stools are sometimes slimy and bloody, without any tincture of bile; worms are frequently discharged. I have seen thirty and forty, discharged in the course of a few hours. Children in this stage of the disease appear to suffer a good deal of pain, the pulse is quick and weak, the head usually warm, while the extremities retain their natural heat. The head is in many instances so much affected as to produce delirium. An intense thirst attends every stage of the disease. Through the whole course of the disease the stools are frequently large, and extremely



Coldy but in some instances you are without snow
and resemble dreary and dismal.

CLOUDS. there are various kinds such as rain clouds
with either frost, or in frost, or in the intervals
varied or weather alternating from heat to
cold and particularly so when the atmosphere is
moist. In warm climates and seasons often occurs
a hot and dry weather a fall of rain cooling the
atmosphere seems well calculated to bring on this disease,
and it is very probable that

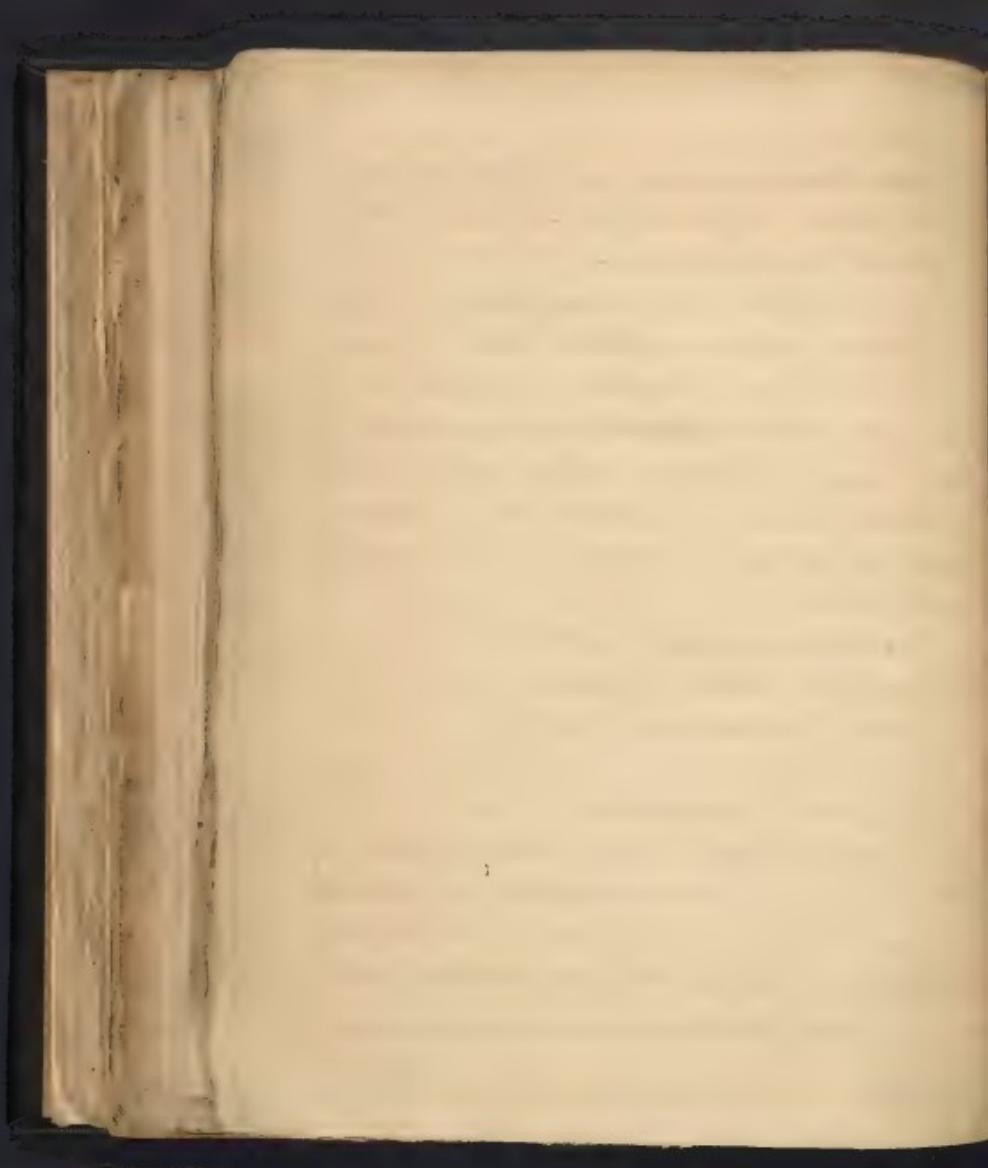
an obstructed perspiration may have also a share in
this, tho we frequently observe the disease to appear when
no change in the temperature of the air nor any great
change of cold has been observed. The inattention of parents
to change their Childrens clothing, and to adapt it to the
varieties of weather is said to lay the foundation for
Cholera infantum. Sudden change as an exciting
cause, hence we perceive this disease to be more violent
than any other. This disease is brought
into action by improper articles in diet, Clothing &c. The



the smells of the season are a most prolific source
of this disease. Children under such circumstances
should abstain from all sorts of fruit, nothing
in my opinion has a tendency so much to induce
this disease as the weak intestine in raw
fruits. I have seen it brought on repeatedly by eating
apple grapes at Celeria. Worms have been suspected as
being a cause of this disease. It is generally known
that Cholera Indianorum is brought on by the heat and
intensity of the sun large cities during the summer
months.

Appearance and Section.

The circumstances which the typhon of those who
are dead of this disease present to us are the
following. Inflammation may be traced through
the whole body & the Membrane Card. but more
extensively as in the mucous membrane. And even
here there are but few in the body in the stomach
and in the intestines, but more so in the following
as known by Taylorus. the large intestines much

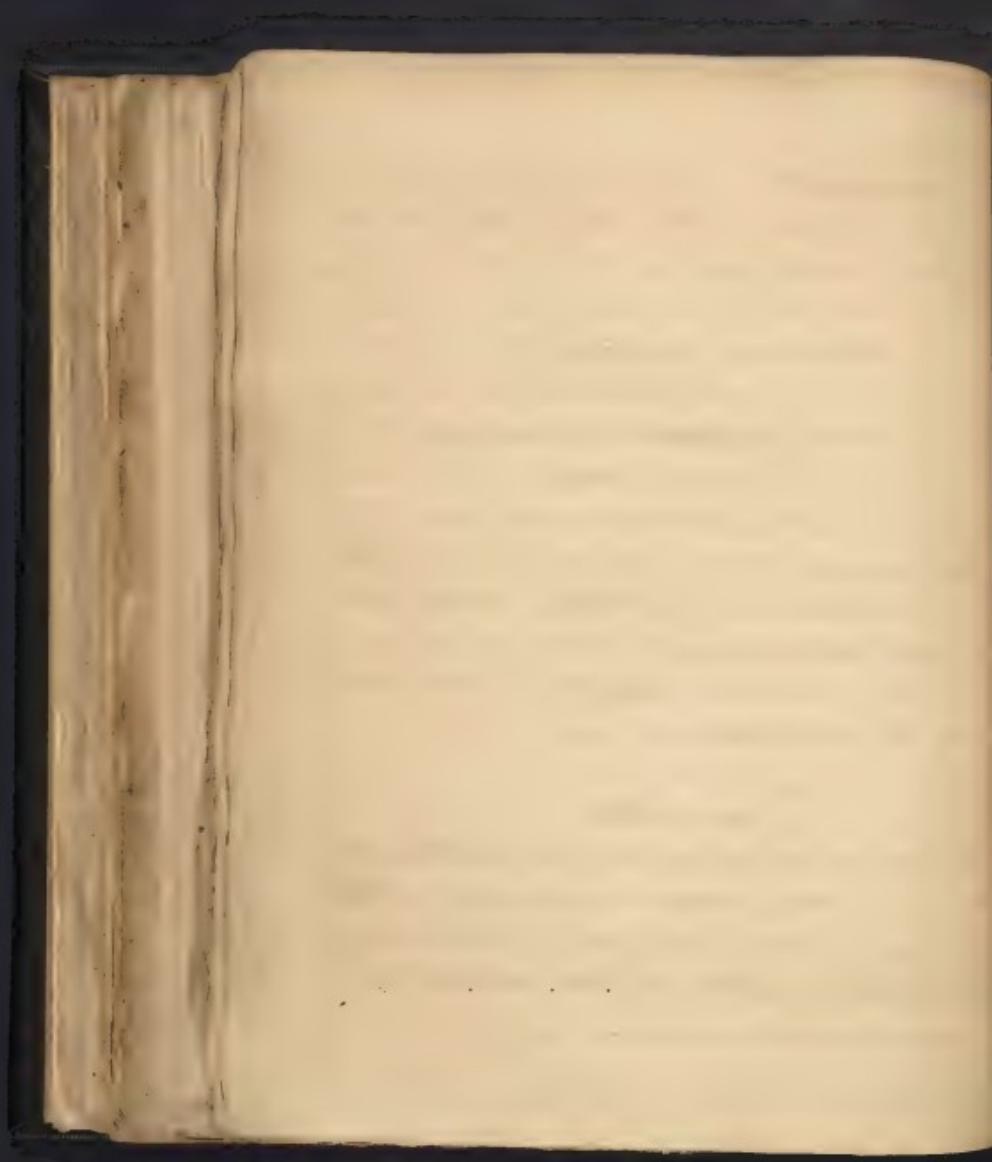


selected except no cause which go no distinction
in this particular disorder. Therefore, etc. etc.
The Liver is sometimes very much enlarged in
just such cases having occasion to contract
to double its natural size. The gall bladder is
usually distended with retained bile; the annexes
is occasionally affected. I have had several
opportunities of examining patients who have died
of cholera Indianum, and it was rarely found that
the terminal viscera were not so diseased, the
great intestines either mortified or partly mortifi-
ed and mortified. the mesenteric glands consider-
ably enlarged, and a number of lead shot
out the rectum.

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1861 Nov 8th.

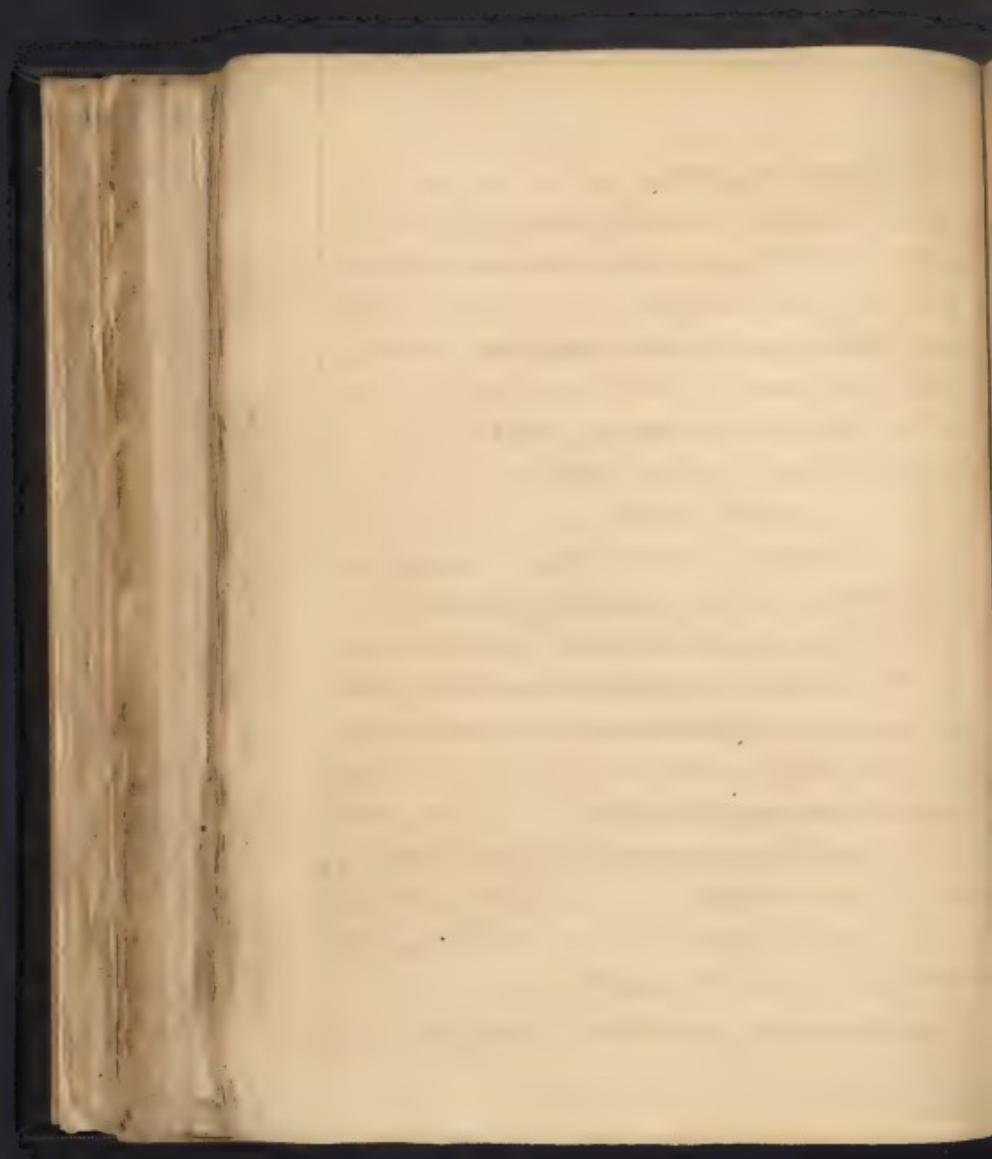
Almost all the diseases which afflict the Indians
can be in some measure bear an analogy to cholera
Indianus, & we can distinguish them from each other
easily. This we shall be able to do by inspecting the



the excretaries. It may be distinguished from the
Tumours by the nature of the discharge, by not being
attended with somnium, and from most of the other
tumours by the rule by which it may be distinguished from the other
tumours of a similar nature, as it will be no more
now time than I am disposed to abate. I shall
however proceed to speak of the

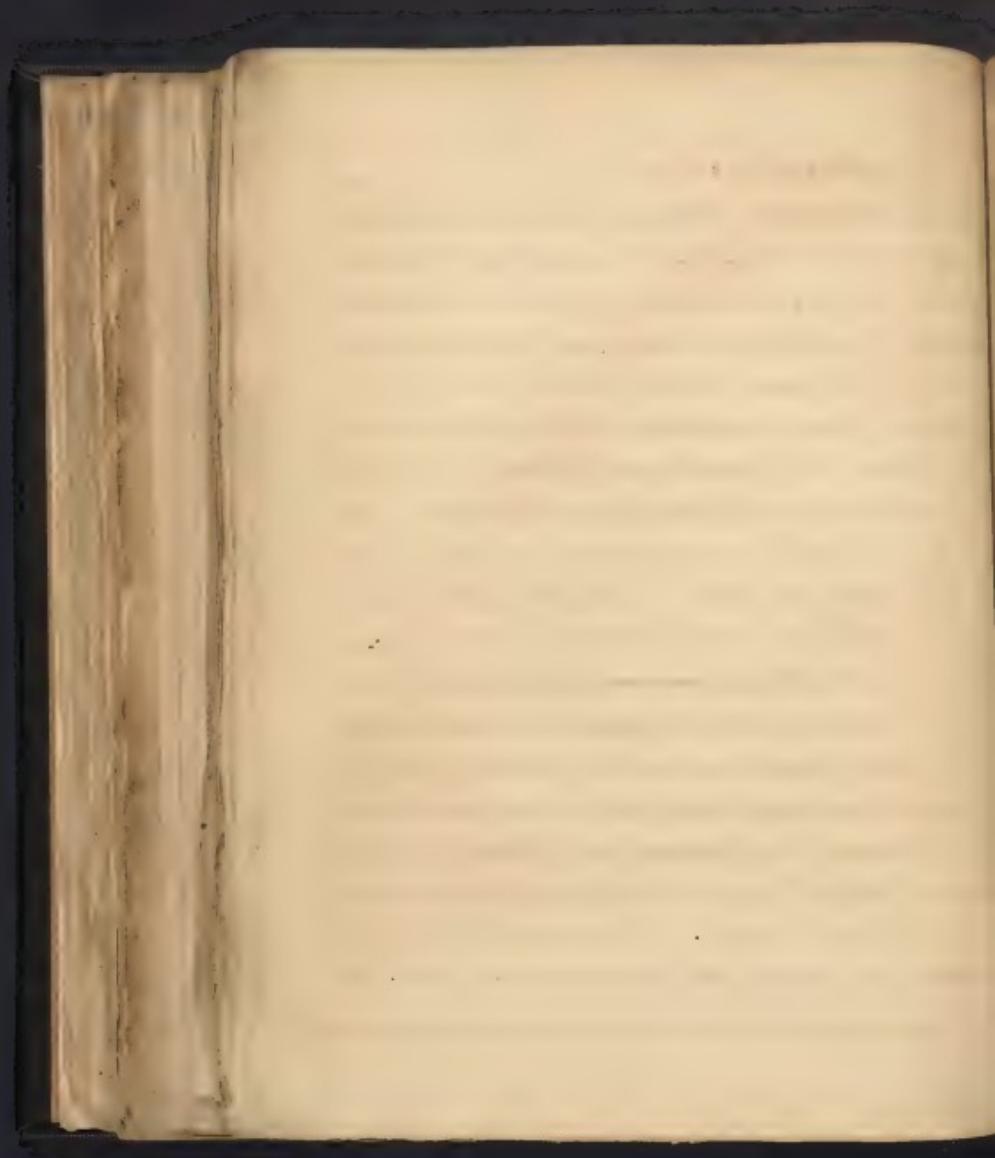
Stomach.

This may be favourable in all mild attacks and even in
more violent ones a hope may still be indulged if we
subdue the fever in a short time; but I do not know
what can answer in this to ensue. Highly among
them as I have witnessed several times. In this
respecting me in weak poisons & weak & muscular
power, and considerable irritability in stomach.
in small and intermitting doses, sedulously exciting
these are measurable and indicate great danger.
A recovery may be expected when the above mentioned
symptoms are not so violent.

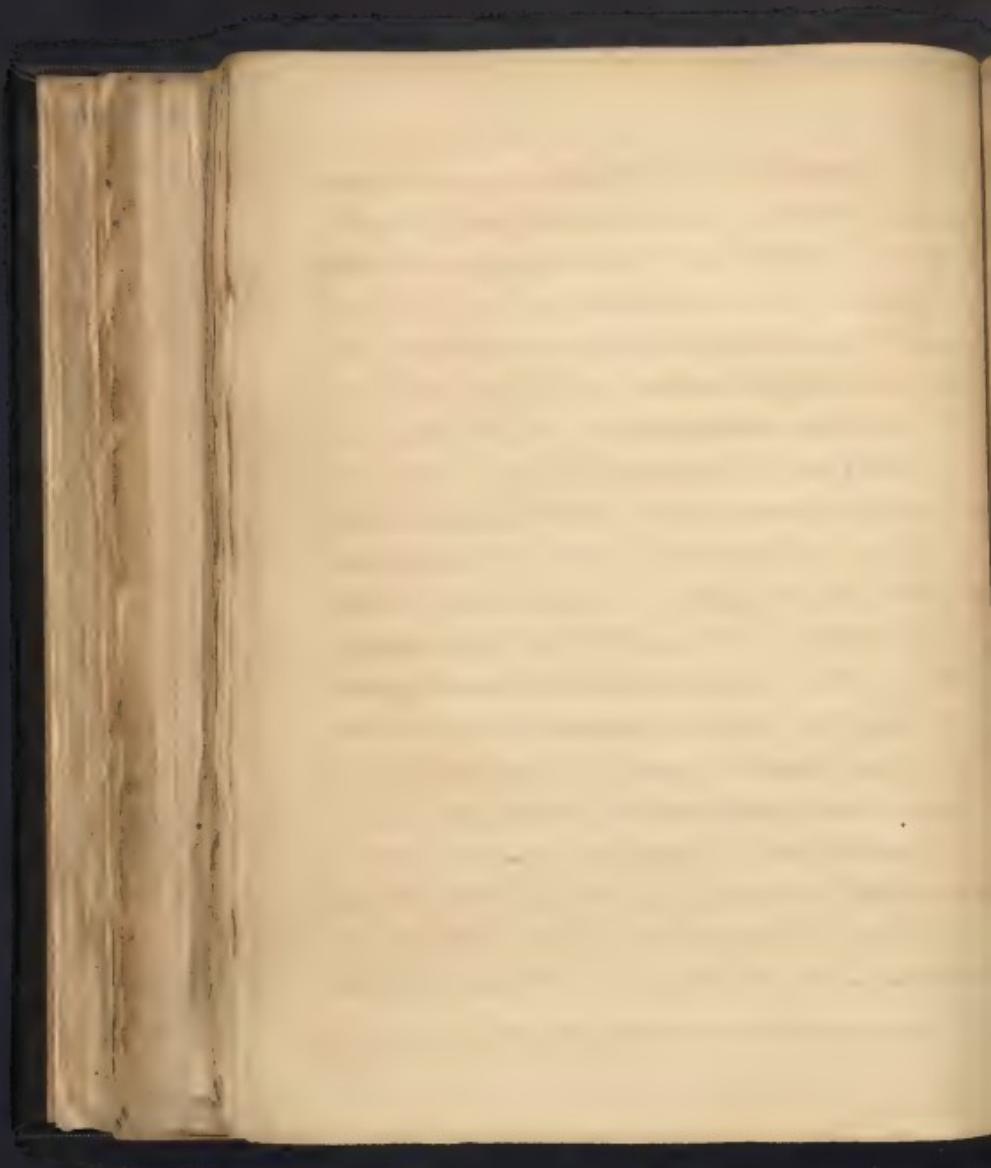


Methods of Cure.

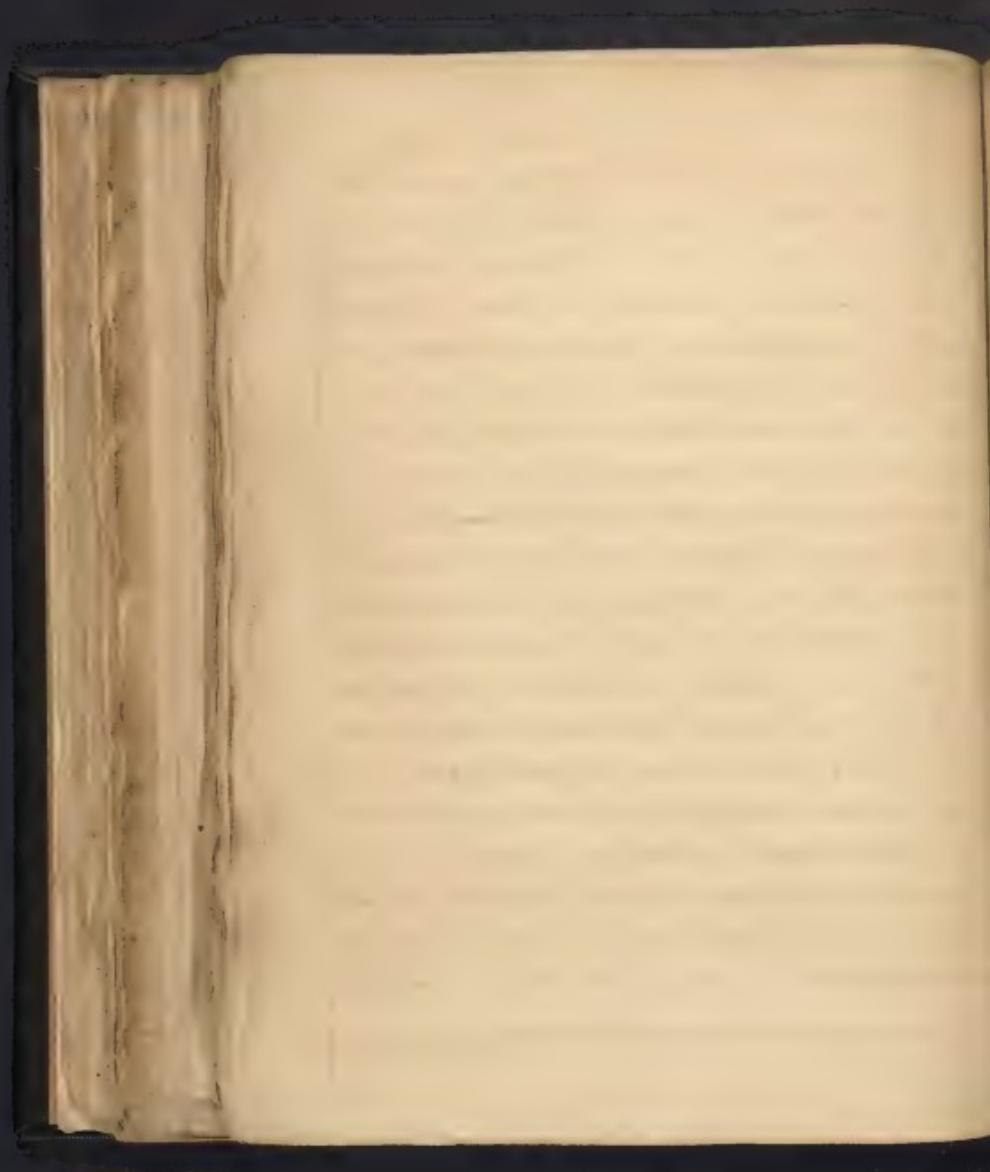
As to the treatment of Cholera infantum, no little diversity of opinion has existed among our best medical men. Now this discordance of opinion both its rise can only be accounted for from the different modes of action of the disease, the climate in which it exists or from the peculiar situation in which infants are often located. All these circumstances will allow him or her have similar favorable or unfavorable in the patient. This however is one of the most vital reasons of such a multiplicity of sentiments concerning the true remedy, not only of course they are among the disease common to mankind. and yet it is the cause why that harmony of sentiment cannot exist among physicians as well as among other medical characters. It would be tedious for me therefore to mention all the opinions which have been advanced by the public as the result of their own experience. I shall confine myself to those which will accord with my own. The first step towards the cure of



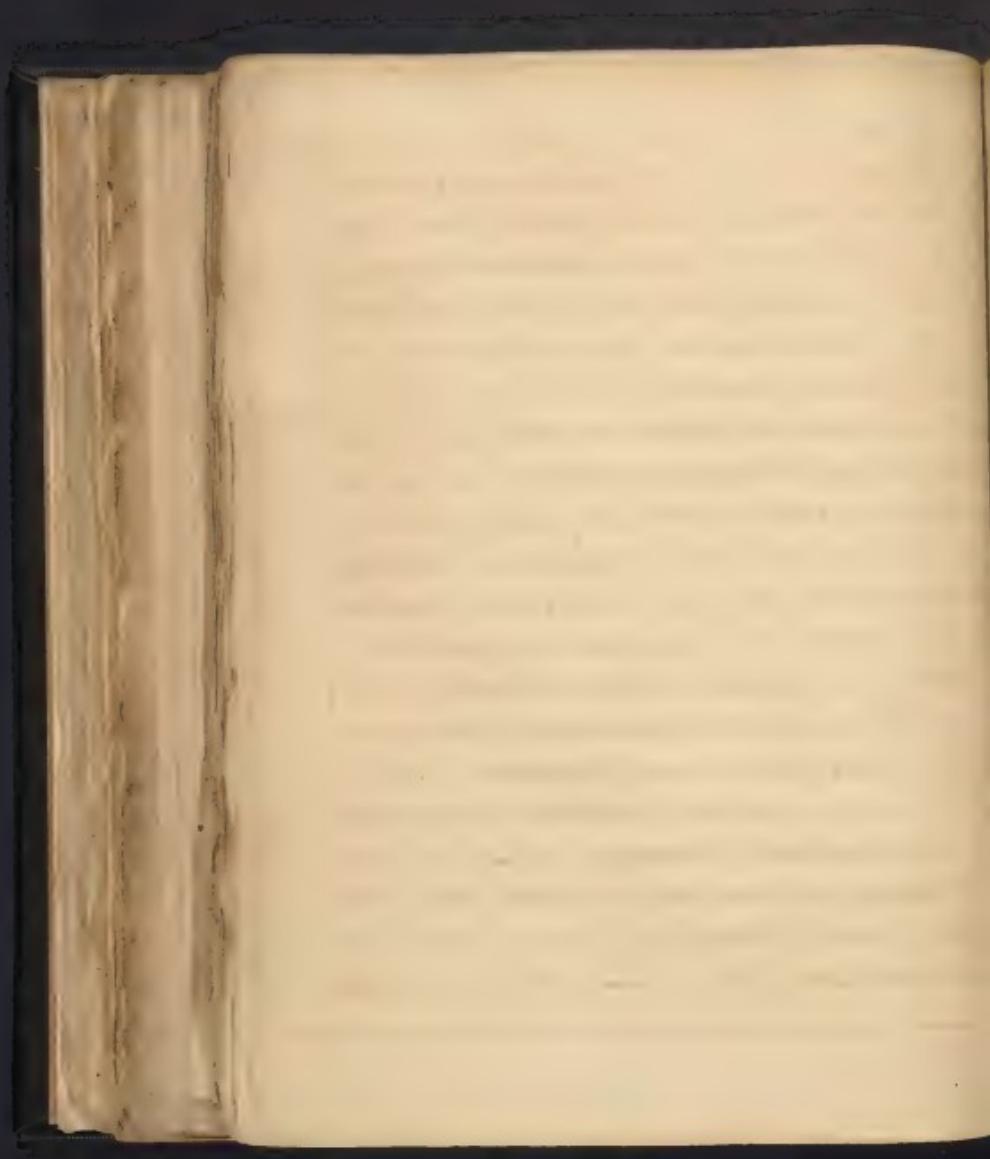
of this troublesome disease depends on many circumstances
but in the first place the remedies to be used must be
in proportion to the violence of the disease and we should
not suppose it fit in view the severity in which the
disease exists the time of the year the strength of the
patient all these will affect in making up the means
relative a certain method of cure. If in the first place
there is much inflammation which is now generally the
case nothing is more calculated to subdue it than cold air
but no man who travels it communes with a disorder
such as the Alimentary Canal in such cases however
the internal parts should be treated by its exercise
but as regards the mouth course to be pursued will
be necessary there is by no means the same unanimity
of sentiments historical generally provide for this purpose
as truth or even merit allows this would answer very
well if it were read in through the nostrils and to
receive little or no grating the soft delicate air in
these children to like it. The best way therefore of
using it is in combination with a little sugar as this



in some measure, prevents the bitterness of the Oil. But
we frequently meet with Cases attended with violent
vomiting; the patient remains at the medicine as long
as possible. In such instances I have found the following
injurious to answer so much water, fomentations of warm
stocks applied to the epigastric region turn water into
milk, and the scutellæ therefore have in such cases been
frequent. After this indication has been rejected we
look in India then resort to Barkartea. This is a
most important medicine in the cure of Cholera
Infectious; they are not only necessary to remove the con-
stipation attendant especially to bark are right contrac-
ting & exciting an increased secretion from the mucous
membrane of the mouth, nose, &c. & in various
nocturnal have I seen to answer so well as the internal
foment, in combination with Opium. These should be
given in small doses. The bark very effectually as a
purge while at the same time the Opium reduces
this as in a great measure mitigated by the Opium
which often can be composed. The purging should

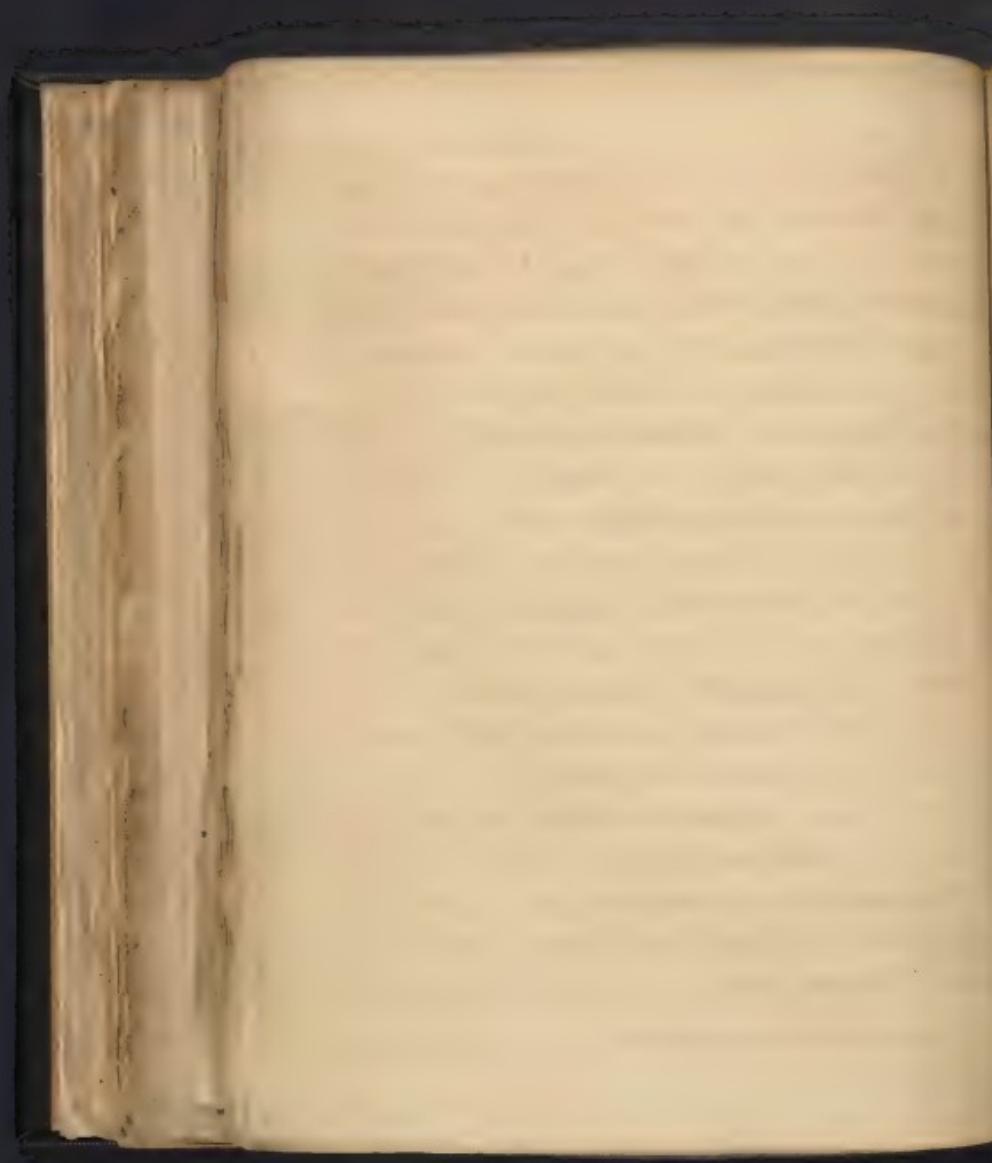


be continued for a while, with some of
the Neutral Salts; what I have found to answer very
well is the Epsom Salts. Rhubarb has been recom-
mended but, experiencing something of an strengthen-
ing property practitioners have generally laid it aside.
It is important to continue the purgative for some
time, where there are strong indications of bilious
accumulations. Every case of Cholera infantum is
marked by great inequality of temperature while
one portion of the body is scorning hot, another
part is very cold, here nothing can I seem to answer so
well as the warm bath, in immersion we equalize the
temperatures, and diffuse a glow over the whole surface.
It is highly necessary that this should be continued
very long as its effects are many evanescent. Besides
these are very important in the cure of this disease.
They are serviceable by causing a translocation of mor-
bid excretion from one part to some other much
attention must be paid to the grade of inflammation.
Some difference of opinion has existed in the usage

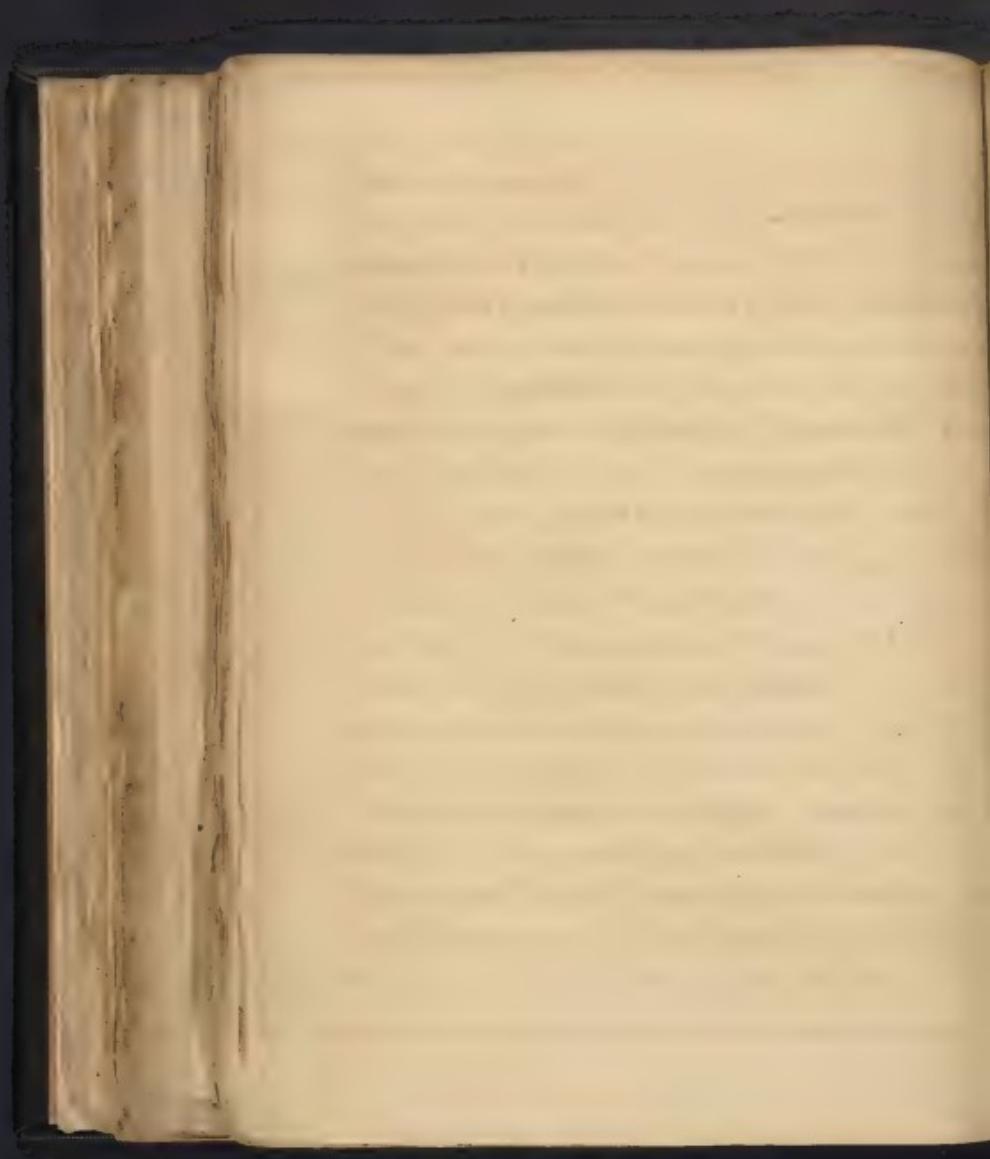


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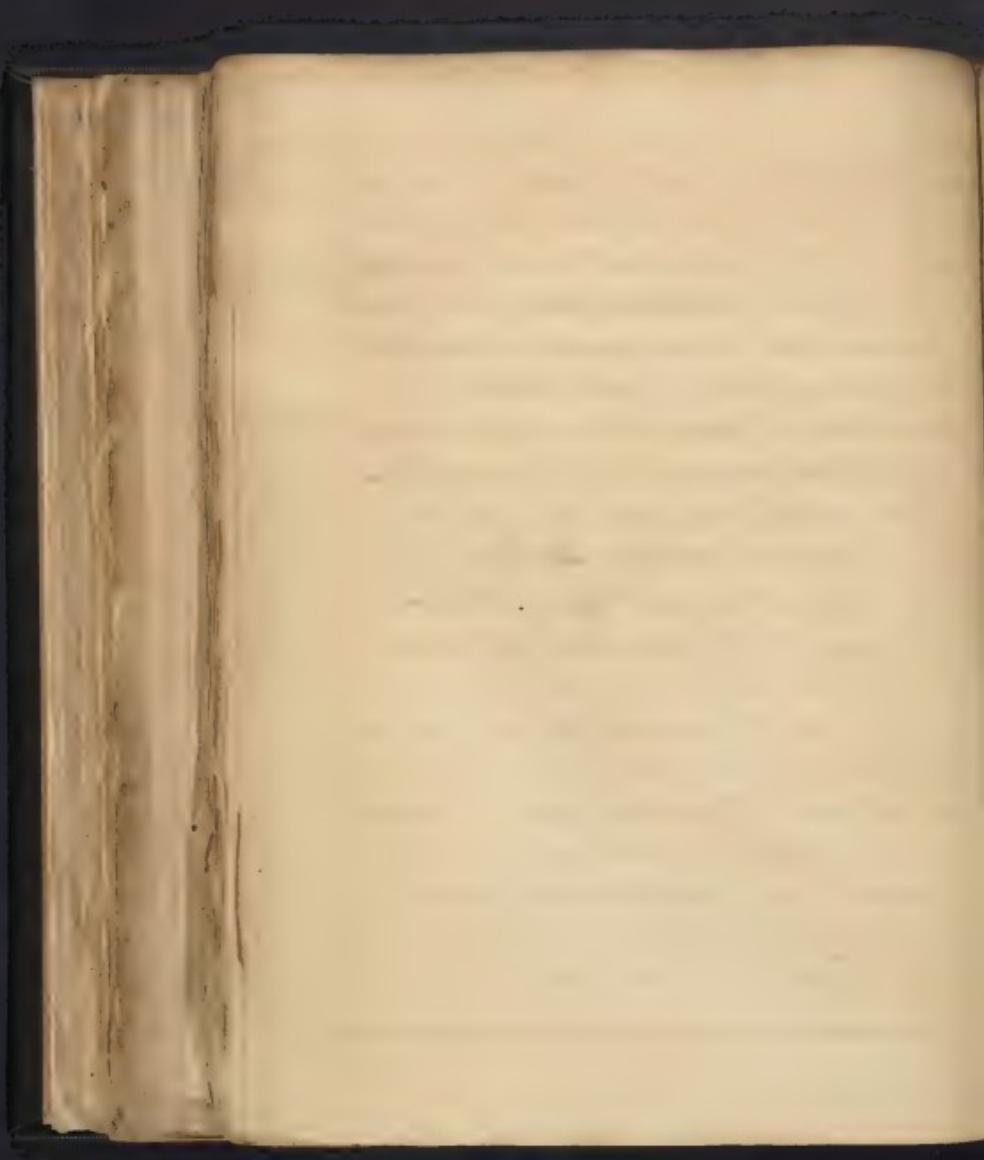
of the blisters it is now generally concurred that it
should be large enough to cover the ulceration, remain
nackledness, except the extremities, for sheer-ability
action on account of the great inconveniences which
the patient experiences in going to bed. This I consider
to be totally unnecessary, and would therefore advise
there to be the former way. Much advantage is said to be
derived from stimulating ointments to the surface.
In the treatment of this disease much differs but
little in regard to its latter stages, and therefore
since there is but of late consequences, so since
it has been proposed mentioned in the beginning, the
patient is considerably inveterate, so his recovery to the
strength of his constitution, or to some diminution
that time, and not medicine, crests in his habits.
After a few days and even months the disease subsides
as in all ordinary attended with some inflammation
and torpidness, it is usual at this time, conclude, to find the
stomach greatly debilitated, with a loss of the
power of digestion, and in many cases very irritable.



The remedies at this stage of the disease are the following and Costa cautions that the following parts have slow to answer externally well. R. bark of pepper tree galls XV. Saccarium Album qj. Aqua Tincta M. the dose of this mixture qj every two or three hours the alkalis may be used thus. & Salts Tartar qj. Lax canum galls XV white Sugar qj. Water vij. the dose of this mixture a table spoonful every two or three hours. Tartar may at this time be resorted to with considerable advantage the following preparation is very much used: this is known by a doctor to the Compliante R. Tartar X grained Calomel 10 grained Resinae 8XX grained Santanico galls XV. Oil of Violets 10 minims Water vij. H. the dose 3j every two or three hours these preparations are particularly calculated to restrain the Torment & Tenesmus which are apt to occur. Enemas of milder balsam applied to the rectum have been used with great advantage it is necessary that this should be used pretty copiously. As the disease still remains it loses most of its malignant symptoms and becomes a simple diarrhoea here the mineral antiseptics



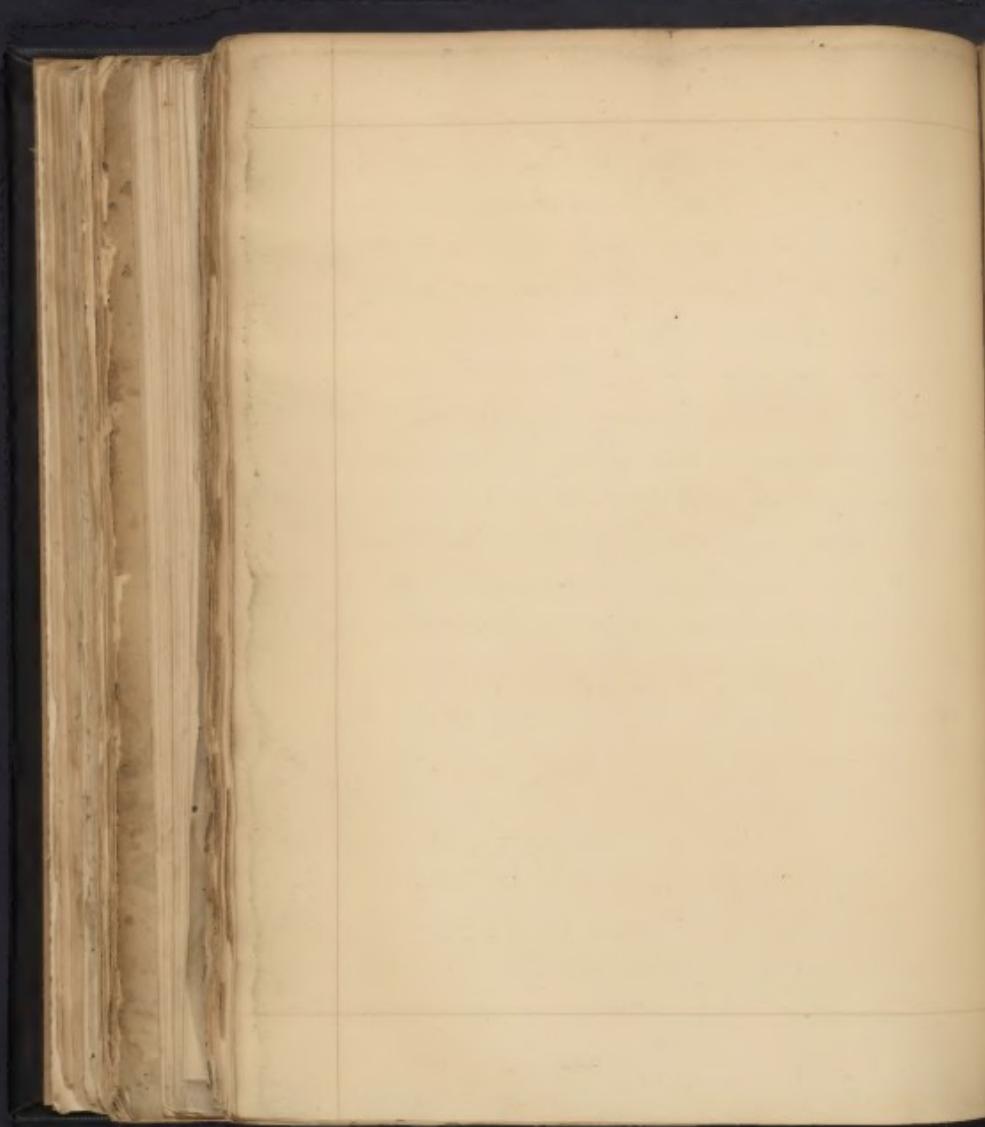
Come in such admixture among the best of them is
Alum. This is generally given in combination with white
Opium, two or three grains of Alum with one sixth
of a grain of Opium. The vegetable instruments however
have been used and with various success. Vulture fat
should be used in form of powder, but the manner
which I have seen to render it more effectual and insinu-
able should be preferred to all the rest. The method
will consist in the common Dutch brown soap, this should
be given in the form of decoction. It should be boiled
in vinegar and sweetened with honey. After this there
can be no excuse sent against such unmerciful
ability.— It remains for me to say a few words re-
specing the proper regimen. As this will be visiting
the patient here at no regular hour or time to ob-
liges him but in the night or violent cases he cannot
be sent away from all substantial aliment either
solids such as bread, fish, &c. &c. The best would
consist of the following; preparations such as
Bacon, Eggs, Turnips, &c. after all the experiments



comely, is a child of unusual size, so large as the
child remains in the City and is exposed to the
operation of those causes which produce the disease,
we may have difficulty but hardly ever effect a permanent
cure. In such a case a Country residence is preferable.
If instead a disease is total in its occurrence, becomes
a high duty, for the accomplishment of which the following
rules are necessary. The Child should never swim
under twelve months, where a medicament
which cannot exist we should employ the Colic
bath. The Child should wear flannel. It is important
that the gowns of the Child be scarcely occasioned.







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